RG104 E-1 Box 148

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

COINER'S DEPARTMENT,

Oct 5th 1887

Hon Dan'l M. Fox

Superintendent

Sir,

In answer to the Directors letter, asking verification of Statements made, and especially with what care the printed Statement was compiled &c, I desire to say the "ancient and modern Coins" a work by Hon. J. Ross Snowden issued in 1860 is the work from which the tabular Statement was extracted.

From the reputation of Director J. Ross Snowden, and his opportunity for examining the books of the mint, this table had always been believed by the authorities of the mint, to be correct, or as correct as that Gentleman in his Judgment was able to make it.

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Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,

COINER'S DEPARTMENT,

....., 188

I give the following extract from page 101. of the book, above named, which will account for the dependency placed on its statements in the past.

"We have had access to the "Bullion Journals" which
"exhibit every return of Coins from the Chief Coiner to
"the Treasurer of the Mint, which has taken place
"from the establishment thereof to the present time.
"We have also the annual reports of the Directors
"of the Mint, as inscribed upon the copy books, from the
"year 1795. down, so that whenever we have, depar-
"-ted from the popular belief, we have done so, on
"what we are bound to consider the very best
"authority, placing no more reliance than is
"necessary in the surmises, or generally accepted
"rumors of the day, as they are doubtful authority,
"and only to be accepted where it is impossible

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"to obtain more reliable information."

On the receipt however of the Directors letter, nothing was left for me to do but refer directly to such books as were in my possession, or in the other departments, from which to compile a table giving the figures found therein. On examination of these books, it showed that the only record which up to the present moment, appear to be complete, are those between 1793. and 1823. inclusive, 1840 & 45 1856. inclusive. And 1857 and 1887 inclusive, and upon a preparation of such a table as is required by the Director during these years, a portion of my force is now engaged and we hope to have it finished shortly.

But so far as the preparation of a table for the other years is concerned, from the fact that certain books have not yet been found - although

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....., 188

From Director J Ross Snowden's remarks already quoted, there appears to have been in existence records as late as 1860, - it is impossible for me to give any definite idea when I will be enabled to complete the record required, but will push the matter as fast as possible.

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
W. S. Stell
Coiner

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 148

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.,
Coiner's Department,
October 5, 1887

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Superintendent

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N.S. Steel
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